

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Examiner objected to Fig. 1 of the drawings, asserting that certain terms were difficult to read. By the current amendment, Applicant submits a replacement sheet for Fig. 1, in which particular attention has been paid to the concerns raised by the Examiner. In view of the submission of replacement Fig. 1, Applicant submits that the grounds for the objection to the drawings no longer exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Applicant respectfully traverses the various 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 rejections. The present invention is directed to a remote diaphragm control mode of a CCTV camera. In particular, the CCTV camera of the present invention has two control modes; namely, an automatic diaphragm control mode, discussed at, for example, page 6, lines 22-25 of Applicant's specification, and a remote diaphragm control mode, discussed at, for example, page 7, lines 1-6 of Applicant's specification.

According to the present invention, a diaphragm position set through a manual operation is stored to a memory when a power source that supplies electrical power is interrupted. In this way, an optional position of the diaphragm of the CCTV camera, that was manually set by an operator, can be set as the diaphragm position that was previously set once the electrical power is re-supplied. Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from the prior art applied by the Examiner, either individually or in combination.

Column 7, lines 21-32 of U.S. Patent 5,325,149 to KAWAHARA discloses a camera having an exchangeable lens, in which the aperture value is adjusted to a value stored in a microcomputer provided in a camera body to coincide with the aperture value stored in the exchangeable lens when the exchangeable lens is attached to the camera body, or when electrical power is turned on upon the power source having been turned off. However, Applicant submits that KAWAHARA fails to disclose Applicant's manual setting of the diaphragm in a remote diaphragm control mode.

By the current amendment, Applicant cancels claim 1 and submits new claim 7 that clarifies that the CCTV camera includes an automatic diaphragm control mode in which a diaphragm is controlled in accordance with an image signal output from the CCTV camera, and a remote diaphragm control mode in which the diaphragm is set to an optional position in accordance with a remote diaphragm control signal (e.g., a manually set diaphragm setting), and that a memory is provided to store a diaphragm control signal (corresponding to a position of the diaphragm) when a source of electrical power is interrupted, so that the diaphragm is set to the optional position that was previously manually set when the electrical power is later re-supplied.

Applicant submits that at least this feature is lacking from KAWAHARA. Accordingly, Applicant submits that KAWAHARA fails to disclose (or even suggest) each and every feature of Applicant's invention, as defined by the claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

Applicant further submits that the above-discussed feature is also lacking in U.S. Patent 4,651,216 to ARAI et al., and Japanese document HEI 6-268902 to TAKASHI et al., and thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are inappropriate.

The Examiner acknowledges (see, the last sentence of paragraph 8 on page 4 of the Office Action) that ARAI lacks a diaphragm control signal setting device that is provided with a memory to store the diaphragm control signal when the power source is interrupted, so that the diaphragm control signal that was set at the time the power interruption occurred can be output when the power source is re-supplied.

TAKASHI discloses an image recognition apparatus in which an aperture value is recorded in a non-volatile memory after collecting a background image, calculating an average luminance, determining an optimum setting, and changing the aperture value accordingly, in which the background image setting is read out from the non-volatile memory when the image recognition apparatus is next turned on. However, Applicant submits that TAKASHI does not disclose or suggest storing the diaphragm control signal in the non-volatile memory.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that even if one attempted to combine the teachings of ARAI and TAKASHI in the manner suggested by the Examiner, one would fail to arrive at the instant invention, as defined by the pending claims, as such a combination would fail to disclose or suggest a CCTV camera having a diaphragm control signal setting device with a memory that stores a diaphragm control signal

corresponding to an optional (e.g., manually set) position when a power source is interrupted, so that the diaphragm control signal that was set at the time the power interruption occurred can be output when the power source is re-supplied, in order to again set the diaphragm to the optional position. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection in view of ARAI and TAKASHI no longer exists, and respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that U.S. Patent 4,410,915 to YAMAMOTO fails to disclose/suggest that which is lacking from ARAI and TAKASHI. In particular, Applicant submits that YAMAMOTO merely discloses (see, for example, column 2, line 56 to column 3, line 24) driving the iris mechanism down to a minimum aperture position when a power switch is turned off, even in a manual mode. Applicant submits that the combination of ARAI, TAKASHI and YAMAMOTO, in the manner suggested by the Examiner, fails to result in Applicant's invention, in which a CCTV camera having a diaphragm control signal setting device with a memory stores a diaphragm control signal corresponding to an optional (e.g., manually set) position when a power source is interrupted, so that the diaphragm control signal that was set at the time the power interruption occurred is output when the power source is re-supplied, to set the diaphragm of the CCTV camera to the optional position. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the ground for this rejection no longer exists, and respectfully requests withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection.

As noted above, Applicant has canceled original claim 1 and submits new claim 7 that clarifies the instant invention. Specifically, Applicant has clarified the claims to specify that a CCTV camera includes an automatic diaphragm control mode and a remote diaphragm control mode, in which a memory is provided to store a diaphragm control signal (corresponding to an optional position of the diaphragm) when a source of electrical power is interrupted, so that the diaphragm of the CCTV camera is set to the optional position when the electrical power is later re-supplied.

Applicant has also revised the dependent claims to depend from new independent claim 7. In addition, Applicant has amended the dependent claims to place them in closer conformance with standard U.S. practice. These amendments were not made to overcome the prior art rejections, and thus, no estoppel should attach thereto.

Applicant submits that at least the above-discussed feature is distinguishable from the prior art applied by the Examiner, either singularly or in combination. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections in the application, indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and pass the application to issue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

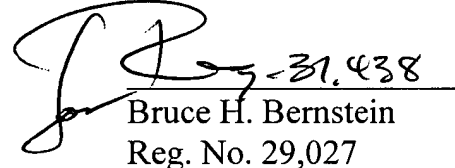
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested and is

believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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